

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-21 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Claim 10 was objected to due to a misspelling of the word "portion," which is corrected herein.

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 13-17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saeki et al. (US 6,320,518); claims 6-7 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Saeki et al; claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Saeki et al. in view of Tada et al. (US 6,594,580); claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Saeki et al. in view of Bullock et al. (US 6,691,028); and claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Saeki et al. in view of Hirota et al. (US 5,568,390). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as set forth below.

The amendments to claim 1 (shown in the listing of claims) are supported by the specification by at least FIGS. 6 and 8 and p. 24, line 1 – p. 25, line 2, for example.

Applicants submit that Saeki et al. fails to teach or suggest the feature of amended claim 1 of transmitting the road shape information of the roads obtained by eliminating the road connection information corresponding to the roads from the extracted map data if results of the decision indicate that the road connection information is to be eliminated. The map data transmission method claimed in claim 1 has an advantage over the prior art of eliminating road connection information that can be eliminated from the extracted map data, thereby reducing the time and cost for communicating the map information, while still transmitting the road shape information of the roads to provide an increased amount of useful information. *See, e.g., page 25, line 19 – page 26, line 9.*

Saeki et al. merely discloses an apparatus that sets a priority for each of the parts of a figure, selects the figure parts based upon the set priority and transmits the selected figure parts according to the priority. *See col. 14, lines 13-65 (cited in Office Action).* By using this apparatus, the map data corresponding to unselected figure parts is not transmitted at all, i.e., road shape information and road connection information corresponding to unselected roads is not transmitted. Saeki et al. fails to disclose transmitting road shape information at all. Accordingly, Saeki et al. does not disclose “transmitting the road shape information of the roads obtained by eliminating the road connection information corresponding to the roads from the extracted map data if results of the decision

indicate that the road connection information is to be eliminated” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Saeki et al.

Claims 2, 5, 13 and 14 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 1.

Independent claim 8 is amended herein. The amendments to claim 8 are supported by at least Fig. 10 and page 27, line 21 – page 28, line 16, for example.

As described above in relation to claim 1, the apparatus disclosed by Saeki et al. cannot transmit road shape information corresponding to an unselected road. Accordingly, Saeki et al. does not disclose “transmitting a remaining part of the road shape information corresponding to the road obtained by eliminating part of the road shape information corresponding to the road from the extracted map data if results of the decision indicate that the road shape information is to be eliminated,” as recited in claim 8. Therefore, claim 8 is patentable over Saeki et al.

Claims 9 and 20 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 8.

Independent claim 15 is amended herein. The amendments to independent claim 15 are supported by at least Fig. 14 and page 36, line 15 – page 37, line 18, for example.

Applicants submit that Saeki et al. does not disclose the newly added feature of claim 15 of “resetting the slicing range by expanding the slicing range so that the slicing range includes the facility and a road connecting with the

facility, if the facility is decided to be present in the area beyond the slicing range.” Saeki et al. only discloses resetting the guiding route and the priority of the parts of the figures. *See, e.g., col. 8, lines 13-22 and col. 23, lines 54-61.* Therefore, claims 15 is patentable over Saeki et al. for at least this reason.

Claims 16, 17 and 19 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 15.

With further regard to claim 17, Applicants submit that Saeki et al. does not disclose “the facility satisfying the specific requirement is a specific type of facility that a user is likely to wish to use while traveling on the recommended route at a specific estimated time point,” as recited in claim 17. Instead, Saeki et al. merely discloses that the highest priority is set to a gas station which the user requests based on the reachability thereof (column 18, lines 16-18 and lines 35-37). Setting the priority of a gas station requested by the user does not correspond to “the facility satisfying the specific requirement is a specific type of facility that a user is likely to wish to use while traveling on the recommended route at a specific estimated time point.” Therefore, claim 17 is patentable for this additional reason.

Applicants submit that claims 6-7 and 11-12 are patentable due to their dependence from claims 1 and 8, respectively.

Additionally, Applicants submit that Saeki et al. fails to teach or suggest the feature of claims 6 and 11 of a total data size of the extracted map data being

estimated based upon the calculated distance from the current position to the destination on the determined recommended route. The Office Action refers to the data amount determining unit 13 of Fig. 1 of Saeki et al. as allegedly corresponding to this feature of the claim. However, the data amount determining unit 13 of Fig. 1 merely calculates a total transmittable amount of map data considering the user information registered in the user information database unit 6, the moving speed of the mobile terminal, the communication speed of the communication media used for transmission, and communication performance of the communication band. *See col. 11, lines 49-67.* Then, the parts selecting unit continues to select the part so that the total data amount of all the selected parts becomes the maximum, while keeping the total data amount less than the total transmittable amount of map data determined by the data amount determining unit 13. *See col. 12, lines 48-52.* Accordingly, Saeki et al. does not teach estimating a total data size of the extracted map data based on the calculated distance from the current position to the destination on the determined recommended route. Therefore, claims 6 and 11, and their respective dependent claims 7 and 12, are patentable for this additional reason.

Claim 3 is patentable due to its dependence from claim 1, and because Tada et al. fails to make up for the above-described deficiencies of Saeki et al.

With further regard to claim 3, Applicants submit that Tada et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of wherein a decision is made to eliminate the road

connection information if the extracted map data are not corresponding to the urban area. Instead, Tada et al. merely discloses limiting information according to road type. Limited access roads such as expressways and highways are established at guide level I for reducing the time and cost, and streets are established at guide level II (column 11, line 54 – column 12, line 14). Expressways and highways pass through various areas including an urban area. This disclosure does not correspond to the feature of claim 3 of “a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the extracted map data are not corresponding to the urban area,” as recited in claim 3. Therefore, claim 3 is patentable for this additional reason.

Claims 10 and 18 are patentable, at least because of their dependence from claims 8 and 15, respectively.

New claim 21 is added by the present Reply. Support for this claim can be found in FIG. 8 and the present specification at page 17, line 14 – page 26, line 9, for example. Claim 21 is patentable for reasons analogous to those for claim 1.

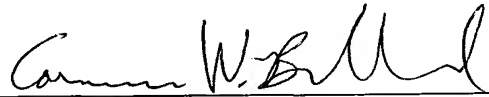
In view of the foregoing, claims 1-21 are believed to be in form for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029267.56102US).

Respectfully submitted,

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